Survival of Hirakud Dam

792. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that serious doubts are being raised about the survival of the world's longest earthern dam, the Hirakud;

(b) whether International Commission On Large Dams (ICOLD) has observed that lifespan of large dams could go down by 50 per cent in tropical areas;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the researchers have said that siltation will take its toll on the dam by 2030,37 years earlier than its planned life; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent siltation of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The State Government of Orissa and the Dam Safety Review Panel are of the view that there is no threat to the stability of the Hirakud Dam.

(b) Ministry of Water Resources is not aware of such observation of the International Commission On Large Dams (ICOLD).

(c) and (d) The observed rate of siltation of the Hirakud Dam is higher than the rate adopted at the time of design of this Dam. This may affect its planned life. In order to reduce the rate of siltation in Hirakud Dam, Ministry of Agriculture, under a Centrally sponsored scheme of soil conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects, covered Hirakud catchment also and treated 24 watersheds in the then State of Madhya Pradesh and 9 water sheds in the State of Orissa.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, I lay on the Table:

(i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Company Affairs), under sub-section (3) of section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002: